



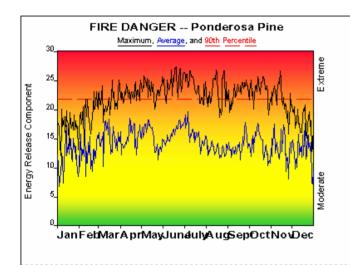








Southwest Colorado Fire Danger Fuel Model C – Ponderosa Pine



Fire Danger Area:

- Fuel Model C Ponderosa
- DRC Forecast Zone 207
- Salter, Devil, Sandoval

Fuel Model C Ponderosa Pine

Fire Danger Interpretation:



EXTREME -- Use extreme caution

(Caution) -- Watch for change

Moderate -- Lower Potential, but always be aware

Maximum -- Highest Energy Release Component by day for 1984 - 2005

Average -- shows peak fire season

90th Percentile -- Only 10% of the days from 1984 - 2005

had an Energy Release Component above 22

Local Thresholds - Watch out: Combinations of any of these factors can greatly increase fire behavior: 20' Wind Speed over 15 mph, RH less than 20%, Temperature over 90, 10-Hour Fuel Moisture less than 7

Fuel Model C PONDEROSA PINE (7,000' to 9,000') - Open ponderosa pine stands with a Grass and Gambel oak understory typify Model C fuels in Southwestern Colorado. Grass, and Pine needle litter, Gambel oak litter and branchwood are the primary carriers of the fire. Perennial grasses and forbs can either contribute to, or retard, fire spread depending upon live fuel moistures and time of year. Oak brush and other shrubs are usually present and will contribute significantly to the fire behavior depending on their densities and height. Rates of spread are typically slower than Fuel Model C in other areas; however, flame length and fireline intensity is greater. Torching and spotting are common, especially when the brush interconnects with the pine canopy. Because of the open canopy, group torching is more common than crown runs. Sustained crown runs are rare and generally occur only in extreme conditions of drought and wind.

Dates to Remember:

Disappointment Fire, 7/20/96, 3,840 Acres, BI-40, ERC-40 Missionary Ridge Fire, 6/9/02, 73,121 Acres, BI-80, ERC- 60